

GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.

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CALLED TEL. NO.: 571-270-6505

TO : United States Patent and Trademark Office
ATTN : Examiner Danielle Henkel
FROM : Greenblum & Bernstein, P.L.C.
DATE : November 6, 2009
SUBJECT : U.S. Patent Application No. 10/559,671 in the name of Gerardus Swinkels;
Our Ref.: P28809.

Dear Examiner Henkel:

In accordance with your request, I have provided herewith a brief agenda for our telephone interview for Tuesday, November 10, 2009. After reviewing this agenda, please advise what time would be convenient for this interview.

(a) Discuss proposed claim amendment to independent claim 18 (reproduced below). Please note this claim amendment is an unofficial draft and should not to be entered into the record.

18. (Currently amended) A device for malting grains comprising:
a tower with a plurality of stories delineated by story floors;
air-permeable annular supporting floors associated with each story being structured and arranged to support grain to be germinated;
a central cylindrical space at an inner diameter of the annular supporting floors in which perpendicular channels extending over an entire height of the stories are arranged, the cylindrical space being divided to define the channels as segmented cross-sections that are separated from each other by radial intermediate walls;
air flow paths associated with each story comprising supply channels, displacement elements, and discharge channels, wherein an air flow path for a respective story comprises air flow through a respective supply channel, through respective displacement elements and a respective supporting floor and its associated grain, and through a respective discharge path channel, whereas each of the perpendicular channels is allocated to a respective supply channel or a respective discharge channel; and

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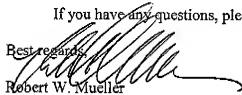
~~at least one central opening within the respective story, through which at least the respective supply channel and the respective discharge channel for the respective story flows are arranged each story comprises:~~

an outflow opening allowing an air flow path from a respective supply channel to a respective floor and its associated grain; and
a flow-through opening allowing an air flow path to a respective discharge channel.

(b) Discuss the distinguishing features of the amendment with respect to the cited art of SCHLIMME.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Best regards,


Robert W. Mueller
Reg. No. 35, 043

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